



The Northern Lights

Vol. 32, Issue 14 North Central High School, 1801 E. 86th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46240 Friday, May 27, 1988

Class of '88 nears graduation date

By Tina Poulos and Linda Zynger

North Central's 1988 Baccalaureate will be held on Sunday, June 5 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Mr. Roach will introduce the guest speaker, Dr. Arthur Hansen, Director of Research at the Hudson Institute. All students are invited and tickets are not required.

Each senior is expected to arrive at North Central by 6:15 p.m. dressed in caps and gowns. These will be distributed in the Student Center on Friday, June 3 from 1-3 p.m. Any arrears owed by seniors must be resolved before receiving their graduation clothes.

Two North Central speakers have been chosen to speak during Baccalaureate. They were selected by a committee of students and adults based on credibility and representation of the entire student body. The Invocation will be delivered by Valerie Clark and the Benediction will be given by Eric Pfeffinger.

Commencement will be held on Tuesday, June 7 from 8-10 p.m. at Market Square Arena. Seniors will appear in caps and gowns throughout the ceremony. Up to 10 tickets per student have been distributed and will be required for admission of students and parents who should enter from the sixth floor.

A mandatory Commencement rehearsal will be held on June 7 from 9:15 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Seniors are asked not to bring caps and gowns at this time, but they are required to bring their seating assignments. Bus transportation will be provided at 8:30 a.m. leaving from North Central in the parking lot behind the Career Center.

Student speakers for Commencement will include Valedictorian, Randy Edwards and Salutatorian, Sheri Lisa Van Reken, in addition to four selected speakers. Two seniors, Michael Mattler and Michael Lieber, will be giving speeches that

reflect upon their past experiences at North Central. The Invocation and Benediction will be delivered by Rachel Stein and Gavin Inglis, respectively.

Mr. Roach will state the name of each graduating senior as the assistant principals give the diplomas to Dr. Phillip McDaniel who will hand them to the students. Next in the ceremony, the members of the school board will shake the hands of each departing senior while a professional photographs each student.

Eric Owens has been chosen to lead the audience in the Star Spangled Banner. Other participants in Commencement include four junior class marshals; Dan Hume, Mari McDonald, Erin Newton and Marc Quigley who will direct the seniors to their seats. The North Central Band, led by Samuel Rhinesmith, will perform during the Processional and Recessional.

NC hosts Russian student

By Erin Newton

Since his January 11 arrival in the United States, Alex Zavodnik has

IN BRIEF

Wed., June 1 is the last day of school for seniors!

There will be no school on Memorial Day, Mon., May 30.

Yearbooks will be distributed during the lunch periods on Tues., May 31.

Underclassmen semester exams begin on Friday, June 3.

The last day of school for underclassmen is Wed., June 8!

Have a wonderful summer!

been a part of NC. And this bright-eyed freshman reports that he is fitting in quite well.

It was because they were not allowed to freely practice Judaism, that the Zavodniks decided to leave the Soviet Union. But that decision was made 8 years ago.

At that time, they filed for a Visa but were denied. The Zavodniks then became part of the 400,000 Soviet Jews who are refused permission to leave (hence the name *refuseniks*.)

In the meantime, these oppressed people must practice their religion in secret, hiding both their books and their pride in Judaism.

That is precisely what Zavodnik's family did for those eight years, until they were allowed to leave. Their travels took them first to Vienna, then Rome, and eventually to the United States.

There has been tremendous support of the Zavodniks and other families like them. But the difficult part of helping refuseniks is getting them out of the Soviet Union.

Long lists of names of refuseniks are compiled. And American leaders, in meeting with their Soviet counterparts, show these lists and demand the release of the people on it.

By confronting the Soviets in this manner, much pressure is put on the government to comply. There has been so much pressure, in fact, that 8,100 were released last year as compared with 900 in 1986.

Zavodnik misses his homeland but is happy to be in the U.S. "I like Russia but not its politics," he states. This soft-spoken teen hopes one day to live in Israel so he can better devote himself to his Jewish heritage.

Class of 1988 Top 10

Valedictorian



Randall Edwards

Salutatorian



Sheri Van Reken



Eunice Ahn

Marc Baer



James Buckley

Brendan Frank



Chiara Ghetti

Luke Hwang

Steve Oreste

Kyle Stanford

NC students to tour China

By Laura Galloway and Susie Mattler

This summer a group of North Central students are going to China to perform choir shows and to sight see. This group is being organized by the Counterpoints' leader, Pat Wiehe. The opportunity was made available to anyone in the school and about 20 students are taking part. Once a trip was made to Romania, but never to China. Participant Sylvia Ertel says, "I'm really excited because I've never been out of the country except for Canada, and that doesn't count."

The group will be gone from June 15 through June 29 touring four different cities. The cities include Shanghai, Beijing, Xian and Nanjing. The performers will probably give shows every other day. The rest of the time will be spent seeing the sights, which in-

clude the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden city, and the Terracotta soldiers.

In preparation for the trip, the group has been meeting twice a week to learn the songs and choreography for the show. Selections include songs from Nickelodeon and a piece written by the accompanist, Ben Prince, called "We Still Have Love." The songs are being choreographed by Bill McKinley. They have been selling candy bars to raise spending money. In addition to learning the songs, each of the participants has been given a series of articles to learn more about the history, customs and geography of China.

Says Mrs. Wiehe, "I think it (the trip) will be a very rewarding and educational experience for all of the students involved."

Editorial

Hypocrisy

By Brad Evans

Thanks to people and groups such as County Prosecutor Steven Goldsmith, the Governor and his task force, Nancy Reagan, and McGruff, the crime dog, ample time has been well spent warning against the effects of alcohol abuse. It would be very difficult to argue against the majority of their warnings, but in their crusading they've left one rather large discrepancy open, revealing an unavoidable double standard, the drinking age.

Setting the drinking age at 21 conveys the idea to the public that after someone reaches that "magic age," alcohol no longer affects the body. The point is: IT DOES, in both bad as well as some good ways. It sounds to me like the old "do as I say, not as I do" routine, unless it's true that people no longer drink and drive after they turn 21, that they no longer die of liver failure, and that they no longer become alcoholics. When Nancy Reagan, for all her preaching, sits back in her all but teetotalitarian country to have a sip of the bubbly she only further enforces the presence of this double standard.

When her husband, the president, literally forced states to adhere a drinking age of 21, the intent was to reduce the number of alcohol-related "problems." Consumer's Research, a national magazine, states, "Alcohol as it relates to drunk driving continues to be a serious problem. The establishment of a national drinking age, however, does not seem to provide even a partial solution to the problem, at least not based on the results of our study." They continue to say that over 75% of all alcohol-related fatalities involve drivers over the age of 20. If the president wants so badly to cut down on alcohol-related problems, why doesn't he just ban the whole thing all together? If you recall, they tried that once, and I believe that as a result alcohol became that much more popular, bringing me to my next point.

When something is done covertly, extra excitement is added, making the deed that much more appealing. Teenagers, as well as adults, enjoy a challenge, and if that challenge is purchasing and consuming liquor, it will be met. To remove this excitement, would be to remove the desire. But don't misunderstand me; this will not cause drinking to come to a sudden halt. It will, however, eliminate a lot of the "get as much as you can, while you can" attitude, prevalent among today's youth. In short, they'll do it anyway.

The majority of the problems of greatest concern related to alcohol deal not in the age of its consumers, but in the quantity which they drink. It would probably be wise and no doubt more effective to spend more time teaching moderation rather than abstinence. But, then again, what do I know, I'm just a kid, Right?

The Northern Lights

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Wage raising outrage

By Bridget Graham

I am not sure that it is safe to write an article against raising the minimum wage in a high school newspaper. But as I am a brave and hardy soul, I will stand up for what I believe in. Don't get me wrong—I believe in trying to help those who live below the poverty level, and I believe that teenagers should get higher salaries. But passing a law to raise the wage is not the answer. People would pay for that "solution" through higher prices and fewer available jobs.

Most employers have a limited budget to work with. If they were forced to pay their employees more money, they would have to cut back somewhere, and entry-level jobs are usually the first to go. The federal Minimum Wage Study Commission reports that for every 10 percent wage hike, some 200,000 teenage jobs are lost.

If the minimum wage were in-

creased, a domino effect would be released in the job market, pushing other wage rates up as the minimum rose. Eventually it would show up as steep and rapid inflation.

At the 1987 meeting of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, three fourths of the delegates stated that if they were forced to raise the minimum wage, they would immediately cut their existing work forces, raise prices, and defer any new hiring to offset their companies' losses.

Those who support an increase often do so in hopes of alleviating poverty. They point out that it is impossible to support a family on \$3.35. But raising the minimum wage is still not the answer. The Congressional Budget Office reports that 80 percent of minimum wage earners are young, single, and live at home. Also, Only 16 percent of household heads below the poverty income level work at a full time

job year-round. The impact of an increase in terms of unemployment and higher prices would actually hurt those it was intended to help.

Very simply, to increase the minimum wage would be detrimental to the economy. It would deprive too many of jobs, while doing nothing to alleviate poverty.

Of course, that is not much comfort to those of you who are shoveling food for a pittance, so I am considering changing my phone number. If it helps at all, there was a bill defeated recently that would have instituted a subminimum wage for teenagers. The sponsor, Senator Orin Hatch, claimed it would create more jobs. Well, maybe it would, but nobody would want them. Never mind, I'll just get a guard dog. Maybe a pit bull? Hey, now there's an idea...

Letters to the editor

To the Editor:

Americans have long believed that part-time jobs build character in teenagers and prepare them for the responsibilities of adult life. However, many adolescents who work are less successful in school, have higher rates of delinquency and drug abuse, and often spend their money needlessly. Having a job with too many committed hours can cause problems for many aspects of a teenager's life.

Working a small number of hours during the week, however, with the majority on weekends, can be very beneficial. Working o-vacations and during the summer is also highly recommended, when school work

would not be jeopardized.

A growing number of teens work because of choice and not due to financial necessity. Pressure on kids to drive nice cars and wear expensive clothes entices them to earn money. A recent University of Michigan survey found that more than 80 percent of working high school seniors spend all or nearly all of their earned income on personal needs such as dates, gas money, records and food. Few students think of saving for the future when paycheck provides immediate gratification.

Many students do not take full advantage of opportunities available

to them at school. Often students use work as an excuse for early dismissal, and limit their use of the opportunities for tuition-free education. High school students need to plan realistically for the future, and not simply attempt to get out of school early in order to earn extra money.

Unless financially necessary, teenage students should make school, not jobs, their top priority, thus allowing them to concentrate on their studies in preparation for the future.

Sincerely,
Krista Mart

Insights

Whose Air is it Anyway?!!?

Smoker's rights: do they exist?

The debate rages on and the battle lines are drawn as smoking becomes banned in more and more places...

Non-smoker's Rights

By Tanya Marsh

*Tobacco is a filthy weed,
That from the devil does proceed;
It drains your purse, it burns your clothes,
And makes a chimney of your nose.*

Ever since Christopher Columbus discovered tobacco in 1492, smoking has been a very socially popular activity. But modern science has since found that cigarette smoking can lead to cancer, not only in the smoker, but also in the people that his smoke comes in contact with.

This idea of "second hand smoke" is the basis for the non-smoker's fight for rights. The Surgeon General of the United States, C. Everett Koop, has determined that women who smoke

while pregnant run the risk of birth defects in their unborn babies.

Koop issued a report on the effects of passive smoke in 1986. He determined that the non-smoking spouses of smokers run a 25% increased chance of developing lung cancer than the spouses of non-smokers. The National Academy of Sciences ran a study in conjunction with Koop's report and confirmed his findings.

The NAS also discovered that the children of smokers suffer from more bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory illnesses than the average person.

The research of the NAS, as well as Koop's efforts, started the ball rolling. "It pulled together all that we had known for decades," says Mark Pertschuk of Americans for Nonsmoker's Rights, "and changed the question from Do we have enough evidence to take action? to Why aren't we doing more?"

In the times since those reports were issued, much has been done to further nonsmoker's rights. Bans have descended upon New York City that restrict smoking to certain areas of governmental buildings and force restauranteurs to have a separate section for their nonsmoking patrons.

While these bans have literally left nonsmokers breathing easier, smokers are furious. They cry that their Constitutional rights have been violated. This entire conflict boils down to the question: Whose rights are more important, the smokers or the non-smokers?

Non-smokers point out that C. Everett Koop and the National Academy of Sciences have determined smoking to be deadly to others. They then point to the Constitution and remind Americans that they are blessed with rights as long as those rights do not infringe on the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness of others.

They feel that since passive smoke is a cause of life-threatening cancer in non-smokers, it most certainly infringes on their sacred rights guaranteed by the Constitution. Therefore, they maintain, the rights of non-smokers.



Smoker's Rights

By Paul Jaskunas

There was a time, not too long ago, when cigarettes were fashionable, glamorous even. But recent evidence proving the habit dangerous for everyone (non-smokers included) has doused America's enthusiasm for lighting up. Our society is now taking a strong stand against smoking, prohibiting it in public buildings, some airplanes and often at the work-place. The campaign is an attempt to make our country a healthier place to live, but the question has been raised whether or not the government and employers should have the right to restrict people's personal habits to such an extent.

Civil libertarians and many smokers are answering no. A Boston smoker questions, "So what

happens next? Do these experts, in the name of better health, make people eat fish instead red meat?" The implication being, "What I do with my body is nobody's business but my own." Of course, the anti-smoker's response would be, "You can do whatever you want just so it doesn't poison my lungs. So put out that cigarette!"

The anti-smoking movement left behind 26% of America's adult population. These remaining smokers are considered by some experts to be the hard-core nicotine addicts, most of whom would like to quit but simply cannot. To them the new regulations seem harsh and pitiless. One smoker complained, "I wish the anti-smokers would try to understand that there is a physical addiction here. They seem to think we smoke just to mess up the air or something." In fact, the surgeon general is scheduled to soon release a report on the powerful addictive nature of nicotine. The sad truth is that an addict *must* smoke, laws or no laws. Once a woman, restricted from smoking in the building she worked in, madly crawled out onto a second-story ledge for a few puffs. She slipped and broke her foot in two places. The incident illustrates the danger and injustice of a country so suddenly turning against a habit so hard to break.

This year the smoking controversy reached North Central. The administration decided (without consulting the faculty) to banish all smokers from the teacher's lounge, forcing them into a tiny, uncomfortable, smoke-filled room called the "smoker's lounge". If that is too crowded, as it frequently is, teachers often enjoy a little private puffing in the boiler room (if they can stand the noise). One teacher finds the new rule "totally unsympathetic to the addicted smoker."

The conflict at N.C. is just an example of what's happening across the nation. Smokers generally feel that the onslaught of government regulations is an unwise, hasty product of a health conscious public, a public that lacks understanding for the addict hooked years ago by a tobacco-crazed society. It's highly possible smoking will eventually die out, but today we have thousands of Americans who *cannot stop* despite legal pressure. Tolerance is all they ask for.



Feature

We Can Do Anything



Chris Ruch and Eric Pfeffinger get dolled up for the 1987 Homecoming game.



Matt Keedy mastered the marvels of static electricity at a party during his senior year.

"C-I-C-K!"

Tyrone Greene (a.k.a. Steve Campbell)

"Specious woman is a redundant term."
Joel Palmer, senior

"I'm cool enough to be a senior."
Anonymous sophomore



Joe Korzekwa is taking his favorite pile of leaves to college with him.

The Pizza Mob

It was pointed out to a certain group of seniors eating 7th period lunch first semester this year that free enterprise is a violation of Federal Law. Being quite fed up with school lunches, Ben Bolanos, Mike Mattler, Mickey Miller, Joel Palmer, Eric Pfeffinger, Hal Rodenberg, Chris Ruch, Carrie Schaub, and Scott Priolo began to make it a weekly habit to have Pizza Hut deliver to Fire Exit in G-Hall, and then smuggle it into the Cafeteria. This provided much needed relief until one day Mr. Roach happened to "follow his nose". He assured us that eating commercially prepared food in a public school cafeteria is a violation of Federal Law. Please write to us at the Federal Penitentiary in Chicago next year. It's not as nice as Harvard, but it's easier to get in!

Mickey Miller, senior



Karen Butcher and Mellie Gregory drifted into their senior year from summer 1987.



Denise Salzman, Brandon Lowe, and Megan Query enjoy the fine cuisine of the NC cafeteria.



Jennifer Gartner, Cindy Guy, Nikki Lovett, Jen Epstein and Molly Wilson have fun hangin' out as Seniors.

Feature

We want...

Scott Bornstein, Dave Leonard, and Tony Brown were rakin' in the money for their spec act in the Fall of 1986.



Emily Shortridge knows that even seniors can enjoy childhood pleasures.



Rachel Stein, Karen Jacobs, Amy Greenberg, and Liz Mitchell smile because they know they're seniors. (Above)

After making it through all four years, Rachel Sosin and Dayna Kalleres have the last word.

This past year, my most memorable experience came when I was flying from Paris back to Indianapolis. I had to use the facilities, and since it was my first plane ride, I accidentally mistook the Emergency Exit door for the bathroom. Boy, what a hokey mistake! I was sucked right out of the plane and fell 200,000 feet. You should have seen what my hair looked like! Luckily, I landed in a huge vat of cherry Jello that they were making at Hugh Hefner's mansion, and so I walked away with only a few bruises. But boy, that certainly was a crazy lavatory experience.

Matt Harris, senior



T: In case you didn't know, this is the last issue of the year.
S: And in case you didn't know, this is the last issue of Travis and Seymour, forever.

T: It will definitely be a collectors item, right up there with Joe Biden buttons and Al Gore bumper stickers.

S: Hi, I am and always will be Seymour.

T: My name is Travis. Actually, Travis and Seymour are pseudonyms. Our real names, for those of you who didn't take the time to read to the bottom of our articles, are Joel Andrew Palmer and Christian Lockridge Ruch.

C: Today Joel and I bring on the close of an era in humorous journalism.

J: Or, as some people have told us, humorless journalism.

C: Anyway, you are now reading the culmination of two years of insightful journalistic criticism.

J: And what better way to finish the year than to review Travis and Seymour, our alter-egos.

C: Okay, first of all let's bear in mind that nobody is perfect.

J: But we're about as close as you can get.

C: Let's not turn this into an orgy of flaming egos. We're going to be totally honest.

J: First of all, I do not recall a time when we turned in an article to our page editor on time. So what's that, one strike against us?

C: Oh, contraire, mon ami. We did this in order to give our readers up to date, useful information in planning their leisure activities.

J: Wait a second, I better break out a shovel here. I suppose our late work had nothing to do with our back-logged homework, busy schedules, and general goofing around.

C: I would say our humor is unequaled in any other high school publication. At least we think we're pretty funny.

J: Ha,ha,ha,ha,ha,ha,ha,ha,ha!! I get it! We think we're funny guys because we write the column. That's a good one.

C: And you people should have read our articles before they were censored by our editors. They were much more funny then.

J: I remember when I came up with the idea for this column. A truly memorable moment in journalism history.

Winston: Actually I think Eric Pfeffinger had a great deal to do with it.

C: Hey, how'd he get in our column?

J: Cartoonist must have been messing with the computer again. Anyway, "T & S" was my brainchild.

C: Whoa, wait a second! I believe the column was my idea, amigo.

J: I think you have been hit with the ugly stick. And don't call me amigo.

C: Ugly stick?! What the heck does that have to do with anything I just said?

J: I don't know. I don't have to make sense. This is the last edition I'll ever write. I can do whatever I want. Besides I think that is a pretty funny insult.

C: In that case, what do you think of Barney Fife? Isn't he just the greatest? How many Emmys did he win for that role? Five?

J: Yeah, I think he won a couple for his role on Three's Company too.

C: Speaking of awards, did anyone of you readers notice how poorly we predicted the winners in the Oscar race? How many did we get right? Two?

J: Well, what's the final analysis?

C: You've got to admit that some of our articles were raunchy, insipid, and just plain old poorly written (including this one).

J: However, at the same time we demonstrated some rapier wit and insightful criticism. One thing is for sure, we certainly did enjoy writing it for all our devoted fans out there, and some not so devoted readers.

C: So what do you think?... Thumbs up?

J: Yeah, thumbs up! So until another time, Stay clean...

C: We know you won't.

Joel Andrew Palmer and Christian Lockridge Ruch wished their parents had named them Travis and Seymour, respectively.

We're Seniors !

Sports

Varsity baseball overcomes hard times for strong showing

By Patrick Mulry

At the beginning of the season, Coach Tom Bradley's baseball team was plagued with inconsistency. Poor fielding and batting combined to seemingly make the season ahead look very bleak.

However, the Panthers have turned their game around. Now holding a record of 16-5, the club has improved in its three weakest areas, pitching, hitting, and fielding. With more time under their belts, the pitching staff has come along well, with Todd Geyer coming on strong towards the end of the season. Coach Bradley feels that Geyer pitched his best game of the season against Warren Central, not giving up any earned runs in a 1-0 loss. In addition, four starting pitchers, Chris Steffey, Andrew Schrage, Geyer and Ken Akins have each picked up four wins.

The Panthers may have improved more at the plate than anywhere else as the season progressed. Senior John Smith, who had only one hit in his first 16 at bats, is now batting .484, and is within easy reach of two school records. Smith, with seven home runs this season and 16 for his career, needs four more four-baggers to break the single season record (Gary Thurman's 10 home runs in 1983), and only two more to surpass Bryan Foster's career record of 17 round trips. Along with his possible record-breaking performances, Smith was also recently named as one of the top 150 high school baseball players in the nation by Collegiate Baseball newspaper. Among others, Aaron Shelby, who was hitless in his first 14 at bats has also begun hitting well, bringing his batting average up

to .280. The team won one game and lost another in the county tournament, to take runner-up honors to champion Decatur Central. The Panthers plated four runs in five innings with John Smith hitting two RBI singles in the second and fourth innings. However, the Hawks scored eight times in the bottom of the sixth to seal the victory.

Bradley sees some tough matchups in store in the sectionals of the state tournament, which starts next Saturday, June 4. Four city schools, Roncolli, Sciccia, Cathedral and Chatard, look to be tough in state, as well as Tech. As the team approaches state, Bradley is basically happy with his squad. Said Bradley in a recent interview "they are playing better than the coaching staff thought they would."



Junior Doug Bowen practices on his pitching skills
Photo by John Keenan

Highly ranked golfers looking forward to state tournament

By Steve Campbell

The North Central Boys' Golf Team is in the midst of another fantastic season. The team started the season off ranked number fifteen out of all of teams in the state and have continued to have a myriad of successes.

The Panther team is led by five very experienced players: senior, Bill Angell, juniors Greg Th-

ompson, David Boncosky, and Ryan Gavigan, and sophomore Brian Jacobsen. These five players have played the bulk of the tournaments. Angell, who is a three-year letter winner, has been making very noticeable strides in this year's season. In one tournament this season, Angell set a school record with a score of 64 which is six under par.

The old record was four under par. The Panthers' record, at press time, was 7-4, including several strong tournament finishes. At the North Central Invitational, at Coffin Country Club, the team finished a very strong second, behind rival Carmel.

Girls' track completes another undefeated regular season

By Jason Fruits

The North Central Girls Varsity and Reserve Track Teams finished their regular season undefeated and head into the state tournament looking to repeat as State Champions. Several team members have had tremendous individual seasons. Amy Hadley, Dionne Smith, Anisa Evans, Michelle Carpenter, Karen McDaniel, Jennifer Schackelford, Sarah Wiehe, Karen Willis and Kristi Fields as well as the 400 and 1600 relay team are just a few of the groups who have made this season a success. As Sophomore Chrissie Watson said, "The whole team has

worked well together in achieving their goals because there is a lot that goes into a track meet. We still have had a very successful season."

The team hopes to repeat as state champions this year. Junior Dionne Smith said, "If everyone runs to their full potential, we have a good chance of doing well in the state tournament. It is a tremendous team because everyone is working hard together. This is not a one star team but a total team effort."

The team finished their regular season by winning a triangular meet with Roncalli and Decatur Central

and by dominating the Tech invitational. Coach McIntyre is now preparing the team to defend their title.

Senior Libby Duncan summed the team's attitude when she said, "This year's team has a lot of new people but we also still have some experienced runners as well. We have a lot of good people who are willing to work and that makes track fun."

Coach McIntyre's team began their trek by capturing the another county meet and by winning the sectional. They now are setting their sights on regionals.

Any boy or girl interested in a summer conditioning program involving weight-training, flexibility, and cardiovascular conditioning should see Mr. Gangstad for more information.

Standing behind the Mike

A year in sports

By Mike Mattler

With yet another year coming rapidly to a close, assessments as to what kind of year it was. Applying that question to the world of sports, it seems likely that 1987-88 may be remembered as "the year that might have been."

Too often in the past several months, North Central teams seemed to show promise early in their seasons, only to find themselves coming up short in the clutch. Hopes were high last fall as both the football and tennis teams recorded big wins over arch-rival Carmel early in the season. These hopes were never realized, however. In the case of the football team, apathy and incompetence took over at mid-season, leading to a disappointing end to the campaign. A cold October morning set the stage for the shattering of the Panther tennis dreams in a hard fought sectional match against those same Carmel Greyhounds. A similar fate awaited the basketball squad. Ranked in the top 20 most of the season, all of the elements seemed present for a trip to the semi-state until poor free throw shooting provided the team's downfall in the second round of the sectional.

It was not only North Central teams, however, which failed to reach their lofty expectations. Victories over Michigan and Ohio State had Indiana fans smelling roses before a tough Michigan State team forced the Hoosiers to settle for peaches. And after their first .500 season in six years, the Pacers seemed destined for greater heights in 1987-88 only to be driven back into the lottery by team squabbles and a late season slump.

As a new year emerges on the horizon, however, signs already seem to be pointing to brighter days. Both the boys' and girls' track teams along with the girls' tennis team are poised to take some of the sting out of a year in which Eric Dickerson and the Colts provided the only true bright spot. As for what next year holds for North Central, that remains to be seen, but, for better or worse, not by me. I have truly enjoyed writing Standing Behind the Mike during the past two years, but the time has come for me to move on. I will leave this space in the capable hands of Pat Mulry, with the hopes that he finds only Panther successes about which to write.

Sports

Boys' track ranked #2 in state polls

By Brett Henry

The North Central boys' track team has gotten off to a fast start. The Panthers have won their first six dual meets and two Invitations.

"So far I'm very pleased," Head Coach Charles Riley remarked. "We've really performed well and the progress of our younger people has certainly helped." Riley has a good right to be proud of his team, whose only setback has come to number one ranked Gary Roosevelt in the Tech Invitational. In fact,

North Central would have won its eleventh Invitational but Brian Ellis was disqualified from second place in a three-man jam-up at the 1600 meter finish.

"That disqualification," said Riley, unhappily, "was a difference of 12 points." NC ended up losing 110-107 and one-third to the defending state champion Panthers of Gary Roosevelt. There were some bright spots in the meet, though. Brian Ellis won the 1600 meters in quick

time. Sprinter MacArthur Tolbert captured first place in both the 100 and 200 meters.

All in all, the Panthers are doing very well this season, posting a 6-0 record in dual meets. They have also won the Fort Wayne Invitational and the North Central Relays and have earned a number two state ranking.

Some individuals have been leading the way this season. Senior Dominique Oliver has been unbeat-

able in the low hurdles. MacArthur Tolbert is also running well in the short distances. He ran the second fastest time in the state this year in the 200 meters. Freshman Tony Nibbs has been very productive in the hurdles and this young star has proven that his early season success wasn't a fluke.

One thing that would surely help the Panthers out would be if Collis Martin could regain his champion-

ship form of a year ago. Riley hopes that he will get back into running condition and be in shape by sectional time.

The squad had its sight set on the County Meet, when it battled Lawrence North for the title on May 12. Now, the Panthers are looking down the road to the state meet. And if the team looks hard enough and long enough, it could very well bring home the state meet.

Girls' tennis ranked number 1; move toward undefeated season

By Jeremy Glowacki

The girls' tennis team is undefeated and ranked number one in the state. Surprised? No, not really, Coach Sheila Evans is not surprised at all. Her Lady Panthers are just about where she thought they should be at this point in the season.

So another spring tennis season begins and another good NC girls' tennis team works its way to the top of the rankings. If they continue they way they are, chances are looking good that the team could add a number seven state championship trophy to their collection.

The reason that Coach Evans really is not surprised this season is due in part to the abundance of strong returning players from last season. The team, while lacking depth, still shows great potential with the likes of defending state

singles champ Stephanie Reese, "solid" number two singles' Laura Moss and the first of two undefeated freshmen, Ali Bleeker at number three singles. The other freshman is Shiela DeMars who, along with juniors Hema Gupta and Robyn Vanatta, share the duties of number two doubles. The number one doubles team of junior Dina Bleeker and senior Elizabeth Weaver is beginning to play together with "better headwork" instead of just "bashing the ball", according to Evans.

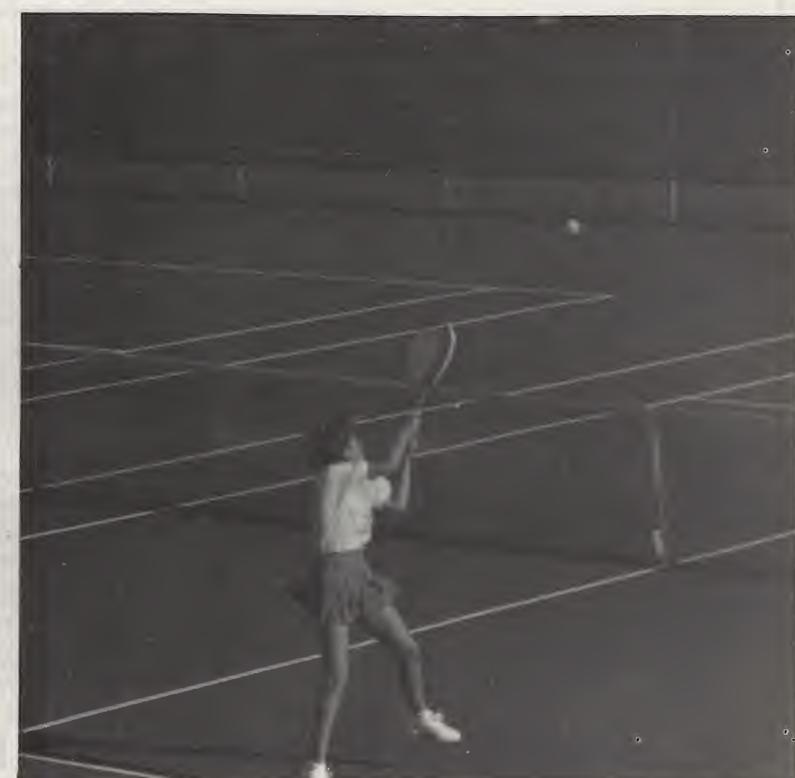
Coach Evans believes that "baring injury, the team is definitely in the running." But up to this point, the Panthers really haven't seen much tough competition yet are still looking for defending state champ Cathedral to put some pressure on them. One team that looked to be a

tough foe was Carmel, but it seems that the Panthers didn't let them get in the way in what Evans calls a "surprising" 4-1 victory. Another possible challenger could be Park Tudor who has a "tough" number one singles player but lacks a strong team.

So far everything is looking up for the 1988 girls' tennis team, but with the tremendous success early in the season, one can't help wondering if all of this success will go to their heads. Coach Evans doesn't foresee this problem stating:

"This team has a good attitude. I try to keep them real keen, teach them to always respect their opponent and to always perform their best no matter who the opponent is."

Who is to argue with a winning formula like that?



Junior Dina Bleeker powerfully returns an opponent's shot during one of North Central's victories earlier this year.

Photo by Jon Sweeney

Softball team heads into state with impressive record

By Pat Mulry

The girls' softball team headed into the County Tournament semifinals with an impressive 15-3 record and exited even more impressively defeating Decatur Central 4-3, to extend their record to an outstanding 17 wins and three losses.

The Panthers headed into the semis after defeating Ben Davis two nights before, helping to boost their confidence for their match against Franklin Central. The girls defeated the Flashes 8-5, with Laura Diehl's two-out, two run RBI triple in the fourth providing the decisive blow the Panthers needed to win with.

Heading into their second game of

the day, the team could have been worried about facing Decatur, to whom they had lost 4-3 only three days prior. They need not have worried. Led by a remarkable lead-off trio, Decatur was sure to see a tough first inning. At the top of the order is junior shortstop Amy Timble, batting .511, followed by senior Martha Mayes, hitting .439 and senior Shannon Black, .500. In addition to the lead off batters, second baseman Lori Spradlin hits .439, senior first baseman Amy Schnaiter, .385, sophomore Jasmin Jordan, .370 and juniors Jenny Bartow, Paige Geddes and Diehl hit

.364, .350 and .341, respectively.

However, the Panther's offense was not all the Hawks had to worry about. Between regular starting pitcher Patty Borches and backup Jennifer Hogaland, the Panthers have a team ERA of only 0.77, remarkable in any league.

The girls faced the Hawks and left the field with an ironic win, the score reversed from their previous meeting. The Panthers were lucky, in that Decatur Central committed five errors and one terrible base running blunder. The Hawks tied it up in the fourth, 1-1, but the Panthers came roaring back in the sixth when Ged-

des hit an RBI single to plate Jordan, making the score 4-2. The Hawks tacked one more run on, but it was not enough to keep NC from its county title.

The team must now look to state to see how well it can do. Head Coach Carolyn Coyne feels that the girls must "...play as a team. We need an all-team effort to do well." The girls begin sectional play tomorrow, and if they keep their batting averages up and their ERA's down, they could be contenders for the state crown.

NOTICE:

Any boy or girl interested in a summer conditioning program involving weight-training, flexibility, and cardiovascular conditioning should see Mr. Gangstad for more information.

Backpage



Relationships A How-to Guide

Lisin' 'Em

1. Tell him/her you just want to be friends.
2. Send her a bouquet of poison ivy.
3. Ask him/her if that's his/her real nose.
4. Ask her if she'll "go" with you.
5. Correct his grammar and spelling in the last note he wrote you.
6. Call her a "ho."
7. Tell him/her that you need more room.
8. Tie dye your hair.
9. Go to a romantic cliff and push her off.
10. Seriously, there is no best way.

by Caroline Coons

There comes a time in everyone's life when one must break up. Yes, that's right, break up. Relieve the ties that bind, breathe the air of existence, gather the roses of life, say goodbye, adieu, adios, and the like.

Let's face it, the human body cannot suffice when chained by the cold grasp of iron. It must be free. Free to choose, laugh, wimper, and sigh, but most importantly, free to say goodbye.

Afterall, what's life when you're bonded? A series of medleys played repetitiously? An insipid piece of chewing gum? A can of flat coke? A broken winged-bird that cannot fly? No, it's pure heartache.

Life's too precious to share with another, so I advocate freedom and the advent of individuality, not hindered by the constraints of another. Companions are great if you're a wolf and need the security of a pact, but we all know human beings need not be reassured of their worth. All human beings have an innate sense of value. We need not be flattered by peers when we have ourselves as our own security blanket.

Seriously though, girlfriends or boyfriends, whichever is the case, are great. They wine you and dine you. They heedlessly spill their joys, sorrows and pain into your confidence. They argue with you in order that you may reassure them that your relationship is "just fine." They possess you and condemn you for speaking to the opposite sex. After you've been inured a bit to the relationship, they begin expecting to go out with you without ever asking. They put their gold chain into your safe keeping in exchange for your small gold ring. They complain because the fire's gone and they work desperately to rekindle something, anything. Their younger sister or brother starts to dislike you. No one said it would be easy.

The seas of summer may be rough, but we can overcome. Napoleon did. Well, bad example, but don't let your girlfriend be your next Waterloo. I say as we get into our boats and paddle into summer, paddle alone or don't paddle at all. It's as simple as that. But then again, if you and your "spouse" are into paddling, so be it.

Findin' 'Em

1. Go on vacation.
2. Tell her you love how her hair blows in the wind.
3. Ask her if she wants a ride home from school.
4. Go to his baseball game.
5. Buy him a donut at the Donut Sale on Friday morning.
6. Be cool.
7. Ask her if she wants to watch the sunset at the bridge at College Park that evening.
8. Buy her a rose and hand deliver it to her house.
9. Remember, it's easy to fall in love, but it's hard to find it.

Impressin' 'Em

1. Act rich, even if you're not. Act cool, even if you're not. Act like you've got every angle covered, even if you don't.
2. To many guys, the best impression is a girl that is aggressive, one that will make the first move.
3. When a girl wants to go out with you all alone - just the two of you.
4. When you tell him/her you had a dream about them and you fail to mention it was a nightmare.
5. Buy her a puppy - it'll make her parents hate you, but she'll like you.
6. When you're talking long distance and he says you can keep talking because it's only money. This would be a good guy to marry.
7. Write a poem and leave it on her car in the parking lot.
8. Go to her house and serenade her with a Jonathan Richman song.
9. When a girl calls you.
10. Go to her house at 4:00 in the morning and spray paint her a Valentine in the snow.
11. When you take her to dinner and she orders more than a salad, but less than a steak.
12. Go on a picnic.
13. Send her flowers - the old classic that never fails.

